

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the 17th international conference of the JEPA, the Japan Economic Policy Association held at Keio University Shonan-Fujisawa campus.

My name is Takashi Yanagawa, the President of JEPA, the Japan Economic Policy Association.

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you from various countries.

The main theme of this year's conference is "Do Our Best Days Lie Ahead?: Stable Growth or Unstable Decline". We have 2 plenary sessions and 5 prominent guest speakers, i.e., Professor Jerry L. JORDAN, Professor Sayuri SHIRAI, and Professor Yoshinori SHIMIZU for the first session, and Professor James C. MORLEY and Professor Anthony E. LANDRY for the second session. Thank you very much for coming to the JEPA conference.

In addition to the plenary sessions, we have regular sessions. This year we have 50 presentations in the regular sessions. Here we have many experts from all over the world. We can expect exciting discussions about the policy studies.

Now, I would like to introduce the Japan Economic Policy Association very briefly. This association was established in 1940, 78 years ago. It is one of the oldest associations in the field of economics in Japan.

JEPA holds two academic conferences every year; one is the annual meeting held in Japanese in spring, and the other is the international conference held in English in autumn. This year, JEPA had the 75th annual meeting, and this is the 17th international conference. It is very exceptional that a Japanese association of economics has an English conference regularly.

JEPA also publishes two academic journals; one is the Journal of the Economic Policy Studies published mainly in Japanese, and

the other is the International Journal of Economic Policy Studies in English. We call the English Journal IJEPS. The IJEPS was first issued in 2006 and recently the Vol.12 of IJEPS was published.

I have an important announcement about the IJEPS. It was published on-line by the association until Vol.12. The volume 13 and afterward will be published by a world-wide famous publisher, Springer-Nature. The IJEPS is published twice a year in January and July. Vol.13 will be available in January 2019.

So, please submit your papers to IJEPS. You can find “Call for Papers” on the JEPA website.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank all the members of the program committee and the managing committee. Without their effort, this conference was not realized.

Finally, I hope all of you enjoy the conference and your visit to this conference becomes a memorable experience.

Thank you.